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Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: S/S- RGAMBLE
APPROVED BY: S/S- MR GAMBLE
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P 111711Z SEP 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 225418

NODIS

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE FROM CAIRO DTD 11 SEP 1976 QTE

S E C R E T CAIRO 12261

NODIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM CHARGE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG KN KS US
SUBJ: FAHMY ON KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 223859, (B) STATE 224789

1. AS INSTRUCTED I SPOKE WITH FAHMY AT 2 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 11 TO TELL HIM THAT WE WELCOME HIS
EFFORTS ARRANGE A NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE AND THAT WE
HAVE NO INTENTION OF ATTEMPTING TO INTERFERE WITH HIS
EFFORTS. I REFERRED TO YOUR SEATTLE SPEECH OF JULY
22 CALLING FOR RESUMPTION OF SERIOUS DISCUSSIONS
BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AND REITERATING YOUR PROPOSAL
OF A YEAR AGO FOR A DUADRILATERAL CONFERENCE.
I ADDED THAT SUCH CONFERENCE COULD TAKE PLACE DURING
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UNGA SESSION IN NEW YORK OR AT ANOTHER MUTUALLY AGREEABLE

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SITE. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT ACCEPT NORTH KOREAN
PROPOSAL FOR BILATERAL US-DPRK DISCUSSIONS
EXCLUSING ROK. I TOLD FAHMY ON YOUR BEHALF THAT
WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANYTHING HE CAN
DO TO BRING ABOUT NORTH-SOUTH DISCUSSIONS OR A
QUADRILATERAL FORUM.

2. FAHMY SAID WE MUST HAVE MISUNDERSTOOD HIS
EARLIER REMARKS AND ASSERTED THAT HE HAD NEVER
SUGGESTED THAT WE MIGHT SEEK TO INTERFERE IN HIS EFFORTS
TO MEDIATE. HE DID SAY THAT OVER A YEAR AGO AT OUR
REQUEST HE HAD GOTTEN A WRITTEN AGREEMENT FROM PRESIDENT
KIM IL SUNG TO ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE AND THAT WE HAD
NEVER RESPONDED TO HIS INFORMING US OF THAT FACT.
FAHMY HAD NOT PRESSED US FOR AN
ANSWER BUT HAD NOTED OUR LACK OF RESPONSE.

3. FAHMY RECOUNTED THAT HE HAD RENEWED THIS OFFER
OF MEDIATION DURING ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HE
HAD HAD WITH SOUTH KOREAN CONSUL GENERAL, AMBASSADOR
EILTS AND THE CORE GROUP PRIOR TO COLOMBO NON-
ALIGNED SUMMIT. HE SAID THAT SOUTH KOREA HAD AGREED
IN PRINCIPLE BUT HAD ASKED AT WHAT LEVEL SUCH
DIALOGUE WOULD TAKE PLACE AND ITS SITE. FAHMY
HAD RESPONDED THAT IT SHOULD BE AT THE FONMIN LEVEL
AND IN CAIRO. HE HAS ASKED FOR NORTH KOREA'S
RESPONSE, WITHOUT INDICATING SOUTH KOREANS AGREEMENT
IN PRINCIPLE, BUT HAS NOT RECEIVED AN ANSWER AS YET.
FAHMY SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS NORTH KOREA MAY
PREFER TO USE "EXISTING MACHINERY" WHICH HE
EXPLAINED AS DISCUSSIONS IN UN FORUM.

4. FAHMY CONCLUDED THAT HE APPRECIATED YOUR VIEWS
AND CLARIFICATION OF US POSITION AND THAT HE WOULD
BE GLAD TO CONTINUE OFFER HIS GOOD OFFICES TO TRY
ARRANGE THE NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE.

5. COMMENT: FROM FAHMY'S REMARKS IT SOUNDS AS
THOUGH SOUTH KOREAN CONGEN CHANG HAS GOTTEN OUT
IN FRONT OF HIS GOVERNMENT BY ACCEPTING FAHMY'S
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MEDIATION EFFORTS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD
ATTEMPT TO CORRECT FAHMY 'S IMPRESSION. I WILL SEEK
OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT CHANG'S VERSION OF THE CURRENT
STATE OF PLAY ON FAHMY'S OFFER. FAHMY WAS
IN RELATIVELY GOOD MOOD AND BRUSHED ASIDE ANY
SUGGESTION THAT HE MIGHT HAVE EARLIER EXPRESSED DOUBTS ABOUT
OUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS HIS MEDIATION ATTEMPTS. HE
PROFESSED TO HAVE BEEN CONFIDENT ALL ALONG THAT

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WE SUPPORTED HIS EFFORTS.

6. SUGGEST DEPARTMENT REPEAT TO SEOUL.
MATTHEWS UNQTE KISSINGER

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NNN

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